1999 NATIONAL HIV PREVENTION CONFERENCE

Abstract 193

TITLE: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Testing History and Risk Behavior among Persons at Risk for HIV: Results from the HIV Testing Survey.

AUTHORS: 'Halima Dao, 1 J. S. Lehman, 'P. Wortley, IA. Lansky , 2F. M. Hecht . 1 CDC 2UCSF

BACKGROUND: Knowledge of HIV serostatus of persons at risk for HIV is necessary for early medical interventions and may promote behavior changes that lessen risk. Information on the number of persons tested, and the demographic characteristics and risk behaviors of tested and untested persons helps target prevention programs.

Methods: We analyzed data from a 1995-96 cross-sectional survey. Self-reported risk behaviors during the past year and HIV testing history were assessed among injection drug users (IDUs) recruited on the streets, and men who have sex with men (MSM) recruited from gay bars. We excluded HIV-positive participants (6% of IDUs and 15% of MSM).

RESULTS: Overall, 610 (82%) of 745 IDUs and 581 (80%) of 730 MSM reported testing. Of those tested, 35% of IDUs and 27% of MSM reported that their first HIV test was done in 1994-96. Of IDUs tested, 23% had been tested once, 38% two to three times, and 39% four or more times. Tested and untested IDUs did not differ significantly by race, sex, or age. Of IDUs, 68% reported crack use and 48% reported needle sharing; there was no significant difference between untested persons and those who were tested negative. Of MSM tested, 18% had been tested once, 34% two to 4 three times, and 48% four or more times. Tested and untested MSM did not differ significantly by age. More black and 3: Hispanic MSM reported testing than did white MSM (84% black and Hispanic; 77% white; X2=5.08, p=0. 02). Overall: 75% of MSM had had sex with one or more non primary partners; of those, 41% had had receptive anal intercourse; and of those, 41% had had unprotected receptive anal intercourse. There was no significant difference between untested persons and those who tested negative.

CONCLUSIONS: This multistate sample of persons at high risk for HIV infection showed high levels of HIV testing and repeat testing. However, high-risk behaviors among persons who tested HIV-negative suggest that additional approaches to risk reduction in these populations are needed.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Halima Dao, MD, MSc.

Address: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Rd. NE, MS E-47

Atlanta, GA 30333

Telephone: (404) 639-4955

Fax: (404) 639-2980 **E-mail:** hcd1@cdc.gov